

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

THREE EXTRADITED FROM COLOMBIA TO FACE DRUG CHARGES

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 25, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that John Jairo Orozco, Hernan Alexander Arango-Sanchez, and Hernan Loaiza-Quintero were arraigned today in federal court in San Diego before Magistrate Judge Jan M. Adler on indictments handed up on March 15, 2007, charging them with drug trafficking offenses. The arraignment follows the defendants' extradition from Colombia to the United States on April 24, 2008.

The indictments charge that the defendants did knowingly and intentionally conspire with others to distribute one kilogram and more of heroin, a Schedule I substance, intending that the controlled substance would be unlawfully imported into the United States.

The indictments were part of “Operation Jacket Racket,” a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Operations Division-coordinated narcotics investigation targeting a large scale Colombian heroin drug trafficking organization with distribution cells in San Diego, New York City and Newark, New Jersey. The investigation also targeted multiple Mexico-based heroin transportation cells involved in the importation of large quantities of heroin into the United States from sources of supply in Colombia over an extended period of time. According to the indictments, upon arriving in the United States, the heroin was shipped to either New York or New Jersey, via airports in San Diego, Phoenix, or Las Vegas. A smuggling method used by all the Colombia sources of supply was to sew heroin into the linings of clothing or to conceal it in the linings of suitcases.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in the culmination of this investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country’s battle against major drug trafficking.

“International cooperation is vital to DEA’s success in accomplishing its mission as evidenced by yesterday’s extradition of Hernan Loaiza-Quintero, Hernan Alexander Arango-Sanches, and John Jairo Orazco. These three individuals are responsible for the importation of more than 300 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value in excess of \$10 million dollars. Their indictment and extradition are the result of DEA’s and its global law enforcement partners’ commitment to join forces and combined resources to bring drug traffickers to justice,” said Acting DEA Special-Agent-in-Charge William Sherman.

The defendants are next scheduled to be in court on April 29, 2008, before Magistrate Judge Adler for a detention hearing.

Criminal Case No. 07cr0658-WQH

DEFENDANTS

Hernan Loaiza-Quintero

John Jario Orozco

SUMMARY OF THE CHARGES:

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 959(a)(1), 960 and 963 - Conspiracy to Import Heroin Intending Unlawful Importation
Maximum Penalties: Life imprisonment, \$4 million fine, 5 years of supervised release

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INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
U.S. Secret Service
Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
U.S. Marshals Service
Customs and Border Protection
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
San Diego Police Department
San Diego Harbor Police
California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.